

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11-13 are pending. In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1, 11 and 12 are amended to correct informalities. New claim 14 is added. In the above referenced Office Action, claims 1-6 and 11-13 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests a withdrawal of all rejections as set forth below.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pohndorf (U.S. 4,628,934). As the Examiner is well aware, in order for a reference to anticipate a claim, that reference must teach each element of the properly construed claim. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Pohndorf fails to teach, among other things, "a second adapter ... for electrically coupling with a second lead connector element ...other than the first lead connector element when the single lead connector is positioned within the second lumen, the second adapter including a second insulative layer extending along the second inner surface to prevent electrical coupling of other than the second lead connector element", e.g. as in claim 1. As shown in Figure 6 of Pohndorf, two lead connectors 312 and 314 are inserted into two identical adapters 316. Each of the connector elements of each of the lead connectors 312 and 314 are electrically coupled to contacts (elements 294, 291, 292, and 293 in Figure 4) within the two identical adapters 316. As such, a second lead connector element other than the first lead connector element does not become electrically coupled when a single one of the lead connectors 312 or 314 is inserted into the second of the identical adapters 316, with an insulative layer preventing electrical coupling of other than the second lead connector element. For at least this reason, the Applicant respectfully submits the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pohndorf. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pohndorf in view of Peers-Trevarton (U.S. 4,469,104). Peers-

Trevarton fails to remedy the deficiency of Pohndorf relating to a second adapter for electrically coupling with a second lead connector element other than the first lead connector element when the single lead connector is positioned within the second lumen, with an insulative layer preventing electrical coupling of other than the second lead connector element.

Support for new claim 14 is found, for example, in Figure 2 and in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the originally-filed application. The prior art fails to teach or suggest, among other things, "a first electrical contact element having an outer surface forming a portion of the first external surface and an inner surface forming a portion of the first lumen". For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits claim 14 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

January 09, 2008
Date

/Carol F. Barry/
Carol F. Barry
Reg. No. 41,600
(763) 514-4673
Customer No. 27581